



ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
HEALTH OF THE
BOROUGH OF FOWEY

1939

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Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Fowey, YEAR 1939.

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)--3,051·341.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1939—2,239.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939)—631.

Number of families or separate occupiers—659.

Rateable value (March, 1939), £16,746.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£67 11s. 8d.

The social conditions of the Area have not markedly changed during the year, the main difference having been since, the outbreak of war, a dilution of the population by a number of soldiers who had taken up their quarters in the Borough Area.

The figures of tonnage entering the Port for the purpose of embarking china-clay showed an increase of 33,754 tons over those for 1938. Just before the outbreak of war the shipments of clay were particularly heavy.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births—Legitimate—5 Males; 1 Female

„ —Illegitimate—none.

Total Live Births—6.

Birth-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population—2·67.

(Annual Live birth-rate per 1,000 for England and Wales—15·0).

„ „ for 148 “smaller towns”—15·6).

Still-births—1 male.

Deaths—19 males; 15 females—total 34.

Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population—15·18.

(Annual death-rate per 1,000 for England and Wales—12·1).

„ „ for 148 “smaller towns”—11·2).

Deaths from puerperal causes—none.

Deaths from infants under one year of age—1.

Deaths from Cancer, all ages—6. (4 male; 2 female).

Deaths from Measles, all ages—none.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)—none.

The figures show a very low birth-rate.

In 1938 the figures was 7·9 per 1,000, and this was less than half the average for 148 “smaller towns” in England and Wales.

Classification of Deaths during 1939.

- 2 males from chronic nephritis.
- 2 males from "senile causes."
- 1 male from fractured skull.
- 1 female from diabetes.
- 2 females from cerebral haemorrhage.
- 5 males and 6 females from heart-disease.
- 2 females from Pneumonia.
- 3 males and 2 females from "other circulatory diseases."
- 1 male from bronchitis.
- 1 male from peptic ulcer.
- 4 males and 2 females from cancer.

Diseases notified.

- Measles—5
- Scarlet Fever—1 (visitor).
- Puerperal Pyrexia—1
- Pulmonary Tuberculosis—1 (re-notification).

In the spring months there was a small epidemic of varicella, and in the autumn there were a number of cases of Rubella. This was introduced into the town by non-immune soldiers, who had been exposed to infection at Plymouth immediately prior to their arrival.

In the early part of the year it was decided to invite parents to bring their children for ante-diphtheria immunisation, as a certain number of children, who had been evacuated from a London area, were living in the Town, and there was a possibility that some of them might be carriers. There was a fair response to the appeal and 232 children were inoculated. Parke Davis & Co.'s A.P.T. serum was used and two injections, spaced by an interval of three weeks, were given in each case.

Metereological Data.

	Rainfall	(average)	Sunshine	(average)
January	6·76"	3·98"	48·8 hrs.	56·5
February	2·05"	3·01"	70·5	76·7
March	1·80"	3·10"	113·9	131·3
April	2·66"	2·33"	172·5	179
May	1·02"	2·20"	236·1	193·3
June	3·36"	1·76"	224·4	266·7
July	4·84"	2·55"	124	200
August	1·25"	2·97"	178·7	178
September	·78"	2·67"	174·3	151
October	3·79"	3·93"	109·8	116·5
November	5·35"	3·74"	44·5	74·5
December	2·25"	4·54"	58·3	57·3
	36·61"	36·78"	1555·8 hrs.	1625·4 hrs.

The month of January was very stormy and wet, there having been the highest measured rainfall since records were first taken in 1912. March was an unusually dry month. In April, although the total rainfall was not much above the average, most of the precipitation occurred during the first six days. June was warm and sunny at first, but showed an excess of rain later. July was dull and cool and very wet. September was unusually dry and warm. November unusually wet, with frequent gales. December drier and colder than usual.

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

The arrangements in this connection remain unaltered. There have been no further developments in connection with the foundation of a Joint Isolation Hospital, and, presumably, the matter will remain in abeyance until the termination of the War.

Since the arrival of troops in the town shortly after the outbreak of war a few questions in regard to matters of sanitation, etc., have arisen from time to time, but these have been satisfactorily settled in co-operation with the Military Authorities, who have always been most willing to adopt any suggestions for improvement of any defects.

Evacuated Children.

There were a certain number of these from a London area for some months after the outbreak of war, but they have now been removed elsewhere. They came from a fairly poor neighbourhood, but during their stay did not show any abnormal sickness incidence,

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of Area.

1. WATER. — Periodic analyses of samples, both chemical and bacteriological, have been carried out throughout the year, and all the reports have shown that the water is free from contamination.

(2) Sewerage and Drainage.

140 ft. of main drainage were laid upon the foreshore. 10 drains connected.

(3) Sanitary Inspection of Area.

24 visits were made in respect of drainage. 17 systems were found defective.

7 new drainage systems tested.

SECTION D

Housing.

5 houses were inspected. 4 notices served in respect of various sanitary defects, and these notices were complied with in all cases.

1 house was demolished in default of owner, having been condemned as unfit.

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) **Milk Supply**—There are 22 persons registered as milk producers, retailers, etc. 18 are producers, 11 being retail purveyors, 2 are local dairies, and 2 are retail purveyors with premises outside the Borough area.

21 visits have been made to the various farms. In some cases requests for improved conditions of cleanliness have been necessary.

(b) **Meat and other Foods**—90 visits of inspection were made to slaughter-houses within the Borough area, (2 in number, During the year the following were condemned.—

1 Sheep's carcase.

18 Pigs' heads.

19 Pigs' plucks.

2 Bovine livers.

(c) **Adulteration, &c.**—No action has been necessary under the various Acts dealing with this matter.

(d) **Chemical and Bacteriological examination of Food**—No action required under this heading. If necessary, samples would be sent to the Pathologist at Truro.

(e) **Nutrition**—No action taken or necessary.

(f) **Shell-fish**—There are no shell-fish layings within the area of the Borough.

(g) **Miscellaneous.**—

Factories, Bakehouses, etc.—12 visits of inspection made.

ICE CREAM—One new premises registered, making a total of 9 vendors. All the premises were inspected during the year.

PLANS—Building was not active during the year. 13 plans, mostly for small enterprises, were approved by the Council.

CAMPING—10 visits of inspection were made to various sites. 1 was found to be unsatisfactory.

HOUSE & TRADE REFUGE—694 loads were collected and deposited at the dump. Regular measures for controlling the rat population at the dump have been undertaken.

FUMIGATION—4 rooms and a private ward at Cottage Hospital were fumigated. 2 loads of bedding from the Hospital were conveyed to the plant at St. Austell for the purpose of disinfection.

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

There was no serious infectious disease, and the only diseases of the kind were the mild epidemics of varicella and rubella reported above.

Deaths from Cancer were 4 males and 2 females, ages ranging from 54 to 73.

Prevention of Blindness.—No action necessary.

Tuberculosis.—No action necessary under Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulation 1925, or under Section 62 of Public Health Act, 1925.

The only case of tuberculosis notified was one female who had previously been removed from the Register on becoming (apparently) cured, but relapsed.

There were no deaths from tuberculosis during 1939.

The notification of Tuberculosis appears to be efficient in the area, and there has been no case of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

WILLIAM H. KING, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

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[*NOTE—The completion of this Report has been unavoidably delayed owing to the late arrival of the Registrar-General's figures for Births and Deaths. Normally, these arrive in (or about) May, but this year they did not materialise until October 1st.*]

